

Shults Auto Group is the largest auto group in the Southern Tier. They have six dealerships carrying twelve different makes of vehicles and three pre-owned resale centers. The dealerships are located in Jamestown, Lake-wood, Olean, and Dunkirk, New York and in Warren, Pennsylvania and they employ over three hundred people.

Shults Auto Group has an extensive history in the City of Jamestown. In 1970, Edmond R. Shults and Donald A. Gage bought controlling interest in, what was, Berglund Chevrolet. In 1971, Mr. Shults purchased Mr. Gage's interest and the dealership became Ed Shults Chevrolet, Inc. In 1981, brothers Edmond R. Shults, Jr. and Tim M. Shults purchased Ed Shults Chevrolet, Inc., and Shults Auto Group has continued to grow.

Community is extremely important to the Shults Family and Shults Auto Group employees. They have taken a vested interest in community events, infrastructure, and volunteerism. Shults Auto Group's philanthropic interests include youth sports, education, the National Comedy Center, Northwest Arena, and more. They believe in giving back to support their community.

The customer experience is also very important, and the center of their mission, at Shults Auto Group. Millions of dollars have been invested using local contractors and supplies over the years to enhance facilities, grow the company, and give their customers the greatest experience.

Given the above, I ask that this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations and join me to recognize the fiftieth anniversary of Shults Auto Group in Jamestown, New York. Congratulations on this tremendous milestone.

#### HONORING ST. ANN CATHOLIC CHURCH

#### HON. VICKY HARTZLER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 23, 2021*

Mrs. HARTZLER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor St. Ann Catholic Church in Warsaw, Missouri, which has provided a place for the Catholic community in the town to gather and worship for over 75 years. On March 3, 1946, St. Ann's was dedicated by Bishop O'Hara from the Diocese of Kansas City, and the first mass was performed by Fr. Urban Landoll from the Society of the Precious Blood.

The original church, known as the "sheep shed", was a small building for a small parish, but since then, the parish has flourished and built larger facilities, including a parish hall which was finished in 1984, to accommodate the increased growth of their church family.

The parish and their new Pastor, Fr. Ben Nwosu, welcome everyone from the community to join in mass and celebrate the Lord.

The Church will have their anniversary celebration on Sunday, September 26th.

Congratulations to St. Ann's Church for contributing to the Warsaw area for 75 years. May the Lord continue to bless them as they enrich the Warsaw community for many years to come.

#### CONGRATULATING JALEEN ROBERTS ON RECEIVING SILVER MEDALS IN THE TOKYO PARALYMPIC GAMES

#### HON. ADAM SMITH

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 23, 2021*

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Madam Speaker, it is my privilege to rise to congratulate Jaleen Roberts on earning two silver medals at this year's Tokyo Paralympic Games.

Jaleen Roberts attended Kent-Meridian High School where she competed in the ambulatory races at the Washington State track meet. Born with cerebral palsy, Jaleen trained and excelled in sports such as soccer, wrestling, and gymnastics.

As a result of her perseverance and athleticism, she was named to the U.S. 2020 Paralympics Track and Field National Team. In both her events, the long jump and 100-meter dash, Jaleen earned silver medals and set new U.S. records. Her accomplishments are a testament to her hard work, commitment, and intense training she completed to arrive in Tokyo.

Madam Speaker, it is an honor to recognize Jaleen's incredible representation of our country, our state, and Washington's Ninth Congressional District on the world stage.

#### IN REMEMBRANCE OF TAYLOE MURPHY

#### HON. ROBERT J. WITTMAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 23, 2021*

Mr. WITTMAN. Madam Speaker, it is with deep sadness but great respect that I take this time to remember one of my constituents and a special Virginian, The Honorable W. Tayloe Murphy of Westmoreland County. Tayloe Murphy passed away on Wednesday, September 15, 2021 at the age of 88.

A statesman and conservationist, Tayloe will long be remembered for his service to the Commonwealth and the Northern Neck. Tayloe represented the 99th District as a member of the Virginia General Assembly from 1982 to 2000. As Delegate, Murphy's legislative accomplishments include numerous efforts championing a healthy Chesapeake Bay, including passage of the Chesapeake Bay Preservation Act in 1986. Appointed by then-Governor MARK WARNER, Mr. Murphy served as Secretary of Natural Resources, where he continued to advance measures protecting the Bay and preserving the Commonwealth's natural resources for future generations.

In addition to a life of public service, he also dedicated his time to improving the community in any way he could. Tayloe sat on multiple community boards. Most notably, he spent fifty-five years serving community banks in a variety of roles, including Vice Chairman with Atlantic Union Bankshares Corporation. Preceded in death by his wife Helen of 63 years, the Murphy's were active in the Episcopal Churches of Couple Parish and greatly contributed to historical preservation and education at Francis Lightfoot Lee's Menokin and Westmoreland State Park.

Madam Speaker, I ask you to join me in honoring the life and legacy of Tayloe Murphy, a true Virginia Gentleman. On behalf of America's First District, we say thank you.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

#### HON. BLAKE D. MOORE

OF UTAH

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 23, 2021*

Mr. MOORE of Utah. Madam Speaker, I was unable to vote. Had I been present, I would have voted NAY on Roll Call No. 272.

#### HONORING THE GLADYS PORTER ZOO

#### HON. FILEMON VELA

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 23, 2021*

Mr. VELA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the outstanding work and lasting impact of the Gladys Porter Zoo in Brownsville, Texas as they celebrate their 50th Anniversary. Since its opening in 1971, the Gladys Porter Zoo has served as a pillar of the community, committed to the preservation of nature through research, conservation, and education.

The founder of the zoo, Gladys Porter, was an active philanthropist responsible for administering the funds established by her father's foundation, the Earl C. Sams Foundation. In the 1960s, Gladys and her husband Dean enjoyed traveling the world. Their love of traveling led to a passion and appreciation for nature and wildlife. As the vision for a zoo in the Rio Grande Valley came to fruition, Gladys and members of the Sams Foundation planned the project. Mrs. Porter was highly involved in the process of the zoo's planning, construction, stocking, and equipping. Upon the Gladys Porter Zoo's completion, it was given to the City of Brownsville by the Sams Foundation.

The opening of the zoo was met with critical acclaim. In 1972, the zoo published its first newsletter entitled the 'Zoo News'. The newsletter is still circulated as a quarterly publication and provides zoo members updates on the animals. In light of the energy crisis in 1974, the zoo launched the "Adopt-an-Animal" program. This program is still widely popular today and encourages school groups, families, and individuals to "adopt" an animal, and financially support it for a year. In 1978, the zoo expanded its community education efforts by starting summer-study programs. These programs are focused on providing students with a hands-on learning experience through face-to-face engagement with the animals, indoor overnight camping, night tours of the zoo, and internship opportunities. The program has since grown in enrollment and is now offered to all youth grades K-12 in the spring, summer, and fall. These examples exemplify the zoo's continued commitment to public service and community engagement.

In addition to the zoo's involvement with the community, the Gladys Porter Zoo has remarkably carried out its conservation mission by contributing to various projects focused on preserving endangered species. Joint ventures

between the zoo staff and Mexican authorities in the conservation efforts of the rare Coahuilan box turtle and Atlantic Ridley sea turtle led to recognition from both the United States and Mexican government. The zoo has also contributed to preservation efforts of endangered and threatened species including, the Western lowland gorillas, Philippine crocodiles, and Rhino hornbills. Over the years, the Gladys Porter Zoo has contributed funds to projects that specifically focus on animals in need of attention. These contributions include funding to Dr. Edward Louis, Jr. in support of his work with Galapagos tortoises, and the International Iguana Foundation, which actively works to conserve iguanas and their habitats.

Madam Speaker, the Gladys Porter Zoo is a cultural staple for the Rio Grande Valley, while also serving the world of wildlife preservation, zoology, research, and education in countless ways. For 50 years, the Gladys Porter Zoo has proven to be a world-class zoological and botanical park through its exceptional work in wildlife preservation, research, education, and the community. I congratulate them on reaching this 50-year milestone; and for their continued efforts to support and educate the South Texas community on the need for conservation and preservation of our wildlife and planet.

## NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2022

SPEECH OF

**HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 22, 2021*

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, my amendment directs the Army Corps of Engineers to provide uniform guidance and to strengthen enforcement of laws that are already on the books to ensure that federal construction projects, particularly on our military bases, are completed with the highest quality workmanship.

The Government Accountability Office (GAO)—the federal government's "watchdog" agency—recently completed an investigative report, mandated by an amendment I authored as part of the 2020 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA), that found inconsistencies with implementation of the Corps mechanisms for compliance with important worker protection laws. Today's amendment addresses those problems and instructs the Corps' to fully comply with relevant federal laws and regulations for: building quality facilities—labs, hangars, housing, and workspaces—for our military men and women; providing an honest wage for construction workers; and providing the best investment for the taxpayer.

For years, we have witnessed unscrupulous contractors win construction bids for critical federal work, only to have those important projects mismanaged, understaffed, delayed, left unfinished, and in some cases, rebid—then properly redone by high-skilled tradesmen and women who should have gotten the job in the first place.

There is wide-spread concern that irresponsible contractors and subcontractors hire unqualified or underqualified workers and put them in high-skill jobs for which they lack the

needed training and expertise—a practice known as misclassification.

There are two different types of misclassification: craft misclassification and independent contractor misclassification. Craft misclassification occurs when dishonest contractors misclassify high-skilled workers as general laborers or lower wage classifications in order to avoid paying the higher prevailing wage rate applicable to the high-skilled work actually performed. Independent contractor misclassification occurs when contractors misclassify employees as independent contractors to avoid paying prevailing wages thereby reducing labor costs and avoiding state and federal taxes.

These practices deny workers of their rights to critical benefits and protections, including prevailing wages, worker's compensation and unemployment insurance, and communities suffer because misclassification results in lower tax revenues for federal, state, and local governments.

Additionally, the end product is often compromised by shoddy workmanship which can lead to do-overs and substantial cost overruns.

Congress has passed laws to prevent such problems and punish the offenders. The Davis-Bacon Act is critical in this effort as it requires contractors working on certain federally funded construction projects to pay their workers a prevailing wage to ensure that our federal projects are completed by skilled workers who have been properly trained, classified and paid according to their expertise and locality. The Act stands as a check and balance designed to protect employees from low-wage, low-bidding contractors who look to do the job on the cheap hurting the workers and the client, i.e. the federal taxpayer.

When it comes to domestic construction projects, the Army Corps of Engineers, procures more than most divisions of the Department of Defense. According to the GAO, in 2019, the Corps obligated over \$11 billion for domestic construction contracts.

Each federal agency is primarily responsible for enforcing the Davis-Bacon protections at its construction worksites. The Army Corps has a lot of construction projects and federal construction monies to properly oversee.

Unfortunately, federal construction projects in my district, including Army Corps projects at Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst—have fallen short in oversight and compliance and have run into trouble with unqualified, subpar bidders who avoid hiring needed skilled workers. We have seen cases of sophisticated work—HVAC, plumbing and sheet metal—needing to be ripped up and redone after the irresponsible bidders failed to properly do the work.

To examine this problem and find lasting solutions, in 2019, Congress enacted my amendment to the 2020 NDAA directing the GAO to study the contracting practices of the Corps with a focus on how the Corps monitors and enforces the Davis-Bacon Act.

The GAO conducted its audit from May 2020 to March 2021 examining Corps guidance, relevant documents about the Davis-Bacon Act, Department of Labor guidance and other relevant laws and regulations. They conducted "semistructured interviews" in four Army Corps district offices—Louisville, New Orleans, New York and Walla Walla—based on the district's activities and representing

"various geographical areas in the U.S. and a mixture of volume and type of construction contracts (e.g. military and civil projects)".

They interviewed Corps headquarters officials, DOL officials and four external groups including two labor unions and two trade associations.

The GAO said that "monitoring, including payroll reviews and on-site inspections, are key to ensuring that the Corps enforces contractor's compliance with the Davis-Bacon Act".

But the report also described implementation inconsistencies across the various districts that can easily lead to gaps in compliance with Davis-Bacon.

The GAO concluded that aspects of the reviews and on-site inspections "may not be sufficient." They found that "Corps documents lack information" and said that "In the absence of directions to consistently document on-the-ground conditions, like the number of employees on site" district officials "may not be fully using on-site inspection to ensure contractors' compliance with the Act."

GAO's final recommendations to Army Corps were that Corps headquarters provide clarifying information on how to conduct payroll reviews and document on-site inspections to ensure the proper monitoring of the number of workers and work performed.

In essence, the GAO found that the Army Corps needs to do a better job in complying with and enforcing Davis-Bacon protections on Corps' projects.

My amendment instructs the Army Corps to provide each of its districts with the guidance it needs to enforce Davis-Bacon. It also directs the Corps to investigate worker complaints and third-party complaints within 30 days of filings and reaffirms transparency and disclosure requirements for certified payroll reports.

With better compliance and more transparency, we will see better workmanship, and a greater return for the taxpayer.

## RECOGNIZING PRIME MINISTER OF INDIA MODI'S VISIT TO THE UNITED STATES

**HON. A. DREW FERGUSON IV**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 23, 2021*

Mr. FERGUSON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize one of our global partners, Prime Minister of India Narendra Modi, who is in Washington, D.C. this week for the Quadrilateral Security Dialogue, also known as the Quad Summit, a strategic conversation between the United States, India, Japan, and Australia.

America and India have a strong and valuable partnership, which has allowed both nations to flourish. Welcoming the wide range of collaborative activities undertaken to improve their citizens' lives, we must work to revitalize our existing alliance and find new areas for collaboration and mutual benefit.

I was grateful to meet with the Consulate General of India in Georgia Dr. Swati V. Kulkarni earlier this month, where I reaffirmed my commitment to deepening our ties and advancing practical cooperation between our two countries in combatting COVID-19, partnering on emerging technologies and cyberspace, and promoting a free and open Indo-Pacific.